

S. RES. 703

Whereas methamphetamine, an easily manufactured drug of the amphetamine group, is a powerful and addictive central nervous system stimulant with long-lasting effects;

Whereas the National Association of Counties reported in 2007 that methamphetamine is the number 1 illegal drug problem for 47 percent of the counties in the United States, a higher percentage than that of any other drug;

Whereas 4 out of 5 county sheriffs report that, while local methamphetamine production is down, methamphetamine abuse is not (the National Association of Counties found that ½ of the Nation's sheriffs report abuse of the drug has stayed the same and nearly ½ say that it has increased);

Whereas the highest rates of methamphetamine use among all ethnic groups occur within Native American communities;

Whereas the consequence of methamphetamine use by many young adults in the Native American community has been death, including methamphetamine-related suicides;

Whereas sheriffs report increases in crime directly related to the presence of methamphetamine in their communities;

Whereas most illegal methamphetamine available in the United States is produced in large clandestine laboratories in Mexico and smuggled into this country;

Whereas methamphetamine labs are costly to clean up in that every pound of methamphetamine produced can yield up to 5 pounds of toxic waste, representing a public danger to adults and children;

Whereas the profile of methamphetamine users is changing, as ¾ of the Nation's sheriffs report increased methamphetamine use by women and ½ of the Nation's sheriffs report increased use by teens;

Whereas, in surveys on the abuse of methamphetamine among teens, many of the respondents said that the drug was easy to get and believed there is little risk in trying it;

Whereas other National Association of Counties surveys have shown that methamphetamine also places significant burdens on local social service and health care resources, increasing out-of-home placements for children, sending more people to public hospital emergency rooms than any other drug, and producing an ever-growing need for methamphetamine treatment programs; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Methamphetamine Awareness month would increase awareness of methamphetamine and educate the public on effective ways to help prevent methamphetamine use at the Federal, State, and local levels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2008 as "National Methamphetamine Awareness Month" to increase awareness of methamphetamine abuse; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Methamphetamine Awareness Month with appropriate educational programs and outreach activities.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: Kathryn Weeden of Washington, D.C.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent that during recess or adjournment of the Senate from Friday, October 3, 2008 through Sunday, October 5, 2008, the Senator from Virginia, Mr. WEBB, be authorized to sign all duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I understand that there is not a real possibility that the House of Representatives is going to take up an unemployment insurance extension bill tomorrow. I hope it does. I hope it passes. I would also fervently hope that this body will take up this bill immediately upon our return in mid-November when I understand we will be in session for 2 or 3 days. Passing an unemployment insurance extension is essential. The unemployment insurance extension which was signed into law on June 30 as part of our supplemental war appropriations bill included a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits for all States. This is less of an extension than we provided during economic downturns in the last 25 years because it does not include additional benefits for high-unemployment States.

Currently, workers who started receiving the 13-week extension in mid-July, under the current program, will have their benefits cut off in October, and 775,000 workers across the Nation are going to be cut off, including 42,000 in Michigan alone. By the end of this year, the number of individuals who will have exhausted their unemployment benefits will rise to 1.1 million nationally and 58,000 in Michigan. We must ensure that those individuals who

have lost their jobs, who are looking for work during a time when our companies are reducing the number of jobs and during a time when the price of food and energy is going up, that these people are not also struggling to put food on the table, to pay their utility bills, and to cover their mortgage payments.

We have a bill in the Senate, which I cosponsored, which will provide this much needed unemployment insurance extension. The extension would ensure that out-of-work Americans have an additional 7 weeks as they continue to look for jobs. In high-unemployment States such as Michigan, the States will receive an additional 13 weeks. In August, Michigan's unemployment rate rose from 8.5 percent to 8.9 percent. The Nation's unemployment rate increased by almost half a percentage point to 6.1 percent. That is the highest since 2003.

These are very hard economic times. Unemployment rates are rising. Since January of 2001, we have lost over 3.6 million manufacturing jobs nationally and over a quarter million manufacturing jobs in Michigan. The numbers of unemployed are rising all over the country. We must act to protect American workers and their families.

The Congress needs to act before we adjourn. That means during that window, that 2- or 3-day window in mid-November. We must seize that opportunity to do what we have done in prior downturns; that is, to give greater protection to workers who are unemployed and desperately looking for work.

I ask unanimous consent that a chart comparing the unemployment benefits in this downturn to previous downturns be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS HAS EXTENDED BENEFITS FOR HARD-HIT STATES IN EVERY OTHER RECESSION OF THE LAST 25 YEARS

Date	Temporary unemployment benefits granted to all States	Additional benefits granted to high unemployment States
1982	8 weeks	Up to 14 weeks.
1991	26 weeks	7 weeks.
2002	13 weeks	13 weeks.
2008	13 weeks	None.

Source: Congressional Research Service.

Mr. LEVIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

JOHN WARNER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute and to wish my warmest regards to my dear